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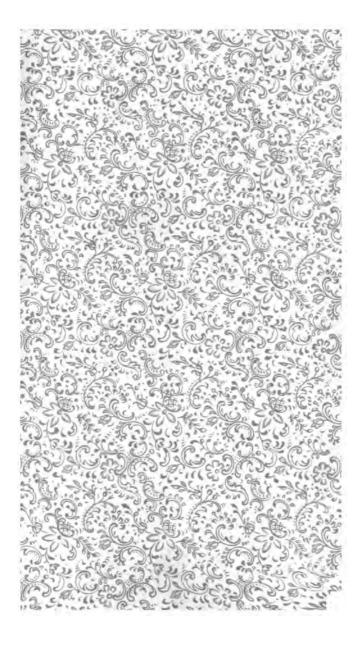
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# English Reprints.

# EDWARD WEBBE,

Chief Master Gunner,

## His Trauailes.

1590.

#### CAREFULLY EDITED BY

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BIRMINGHAM:

I MONTAGUE ROAD.

I May 1868.

No. 5.

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LIFE, ADVENTURES, and TIMES

EDWARD WEBBE,

Master Gunner, sometime Chief Master Gunner of France

#### . Probable or approximate dates.

WEBBE, apparently an unlettered man, goes confusedly backward and forward in his narration, so as to render any chronology of his life little better than guesswork. Some points can be fixed with certainty: from which it is clear, that when he gives years he speaks in round numbers; 13 meaning over 12 years; and the like.

#### 1553. July 2. Mary succeebs to the crown.

\*I554-

Edward Webbe, born at St. Katherines, near the Tower of London. Is the son of Richard Webbe, Master Gunner of England, p. 17.

#### 1558. Nob. 17. Gligabeth begins to reign.

1566-6°.

6°. "My father . . . did prefer me to the service of act 12-14. Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia . . . and vpon him I was daylie attendant . . . There [at Moscow] I staide 3 yeeres attendant on my master." \$\mu\_1\$. 17, 18.

This statement fixes Webbe's birth in 1554. For prior

to the burning of Moscow, Captain Anthony Jenkenson made but three voyages to Russia.

The first, 1557-60, included a visit to Bokhara; set Hakluyt, i. 310-338, Ed. 1509.
The second, 1561-64, included a visit to Persia: see

Hakluyt, i. 338-352.

The third, 1566-68, is thus given in Hakluyt, i. 372. "A very briefe remembrance of a voyage made by M. Anthony Ienkinson, from London to Moscovia, sent from

the Queenes Maiestie to the Emperour, in the yeere 1560.

"The fourth day of May in the yeere aforesaid, I imbarked my selfe at Grauesend, in the good ship called the Harry of London, and having had a prosperous voyage arrived at the bay of S. Nicholas [in the White Sea] in Russia the 10 day of July following, and immediately I sent in post to the Emperor to aduertise of my comming and traueiling then thorowe the countrey, I with my company came to the Mosco where the Emperour kept his court, the 23. of August, and foorthwith gaue the Secretarie to vnderstand my arrivall, who advertised the Emperours Maiestie, and the first day of September, being a solemne feast among the Russes, I came before the Emperours Maiestie, sitting in his seate of honour, and hauing kissed his hand, and done the Queenes Maiesties commendations, and deliuered her Graces letters and present, he had me to dinner, which I accepted, and had much honour done vnto me both then and all the time of my abode in Russia.'

Attendant on Captain Jenkinson, in Russia

Goes again to Russia,

1572. Oct

Captain Jenkinson appears to have remained in or about Moscow, until his return, which accounts for Webbe only alluding to the Russians, while with him.

Webbe again goes out to Russia-this time to Narva, 1570 in the Gulf of Finland-in the English Russia fleet of 13 ships, under Captain William Burrough.

The fleet capture 5 ships of Danish rovers at Turtee island. For the official account of this fight, see Note 1. July 10. Webbe adds additional information as to the fate of the

He appears to have remained through the winter at Moscow, for before the English fleet arrived next year,

1571. May 24. Moscow was burnt by the Crim-Tartars. For two ac-set. 17. counts of which see Note 2.

Webbe escapes the fire and the crush only to become a slave. Giles Fletcher, writing twenty years later on, tells us,

"The chiefe bootie the Tartars seeke for in all their warres, is to get store of captines, specially yong boys and girls, whom they sell to the Turkes, or other their neighbors. To this purpose, they take with them great baskets made like bakers panniers to carrie them tenderly, and if any of them happen to tyer, or to be sicke on the way, they dash him against the ground, or some tree and so leave him dead." Of the Russe Commonwealth,

fol. 69.
Webbe, with seven other Englishmen, is taken to Kaffa in the Crimea.

After some time (Webbe states five years), they are ransomed for 300 crowns = £112:10:0 of then English money, each.

It was probably on this return home, through Russia, that Webbe lost his all in the wreck of the Hart, 12 miles from Narva

1566, May, 1. Selim II. becomes Sultan of Turkey.

'The Sea-fight at Lepanto.' Don John of Austria, at the head of 203 galleys, and 6 great Venetian galeasses, fights the Turkish fleet of 240 galleys and 60 smaller 1571. Oct. 7. vessels: and gains an immense victory, sinking 04 ships and capturing 130 more. 30,000 Turks are slain, and 15,000 Christian galley-slaves released from slavery.

Webbe sails in the Henry of London for Leghorn,

At Palermo, sees the Earl of Oxford give his challenge,

Don John retakes the zown of Tunis from the Turks. The Spaniards had held the citadel already. Webbe states he was there in the Royal, p. 35.

From Leghorn the Henry is sent to Alexandria; with a crew of 60 men, among whom, and apparently for the

first time, Webbe is Master gunner, p. 19.
Returning from Alexandria, the Henry is, after a fight of 48 hours, captured by the Turks, p. 19. Webbe is made a galley-slave.

1574. Dec. 21. Amurath III. (Murad Khan) becomes Sultan. 1576. May 11. Thamasp I., Shah of Persia, dies.

> A disputed succession leads to fierce contests and national disorder in Persia. Amurath determines to conquer it.

First campaign against Persia, from Erzeroum; under Mustapha Pasha (the conqueror of Cyprus). It is inde-

Mustapha Pasha has a second indecisive campaign. He is recalled, and arrives in Constantinople o May 1580. Sinan Pasha appointed in his stead.

/\*158o. Webbe, 'constrained for want of victuals,' discovers his skill in gunnery. Has to serve in the Persian war.

1582. June 1-July 22. Amurath circumcises his eldest son Mahomet. Feasting for 52 days and nights. See J. von Hammer. æt. 28. Webbe makes a wonderful piece of fireworks, pp. 28, 29.

'The tall shippe called the Susan of London [24 guns]: the Master whereof was Richard Parsons' leaves Black-

wall, and

1583. Jan. 14. Mar. 20.

Nov. 14.

Embarks, at the Isle of Wight, Master William Harborne and suite; being the first English Ambassador to the Great Turk.

Mr. Harborne lands at Constantinople, and remains

there 5 years.

The remainder of Webbe's travels while in slavery can

only be put down as they are given to us.

Ali Pasha—a renegade Christian—with 60 gallies

attempts his native town in Calabria. From the Army in Persia, Webbe is taken by Damascus

to Cairo. At the Red sea, sees the Grand Maria.

Thence to Goa in the East Indies.

Thence by Bethlehem, Jerusalem, &c., again to Damascus

Thence to the land of Prester John [? Turkistan] 'within

18 degrees [=1080 miles] of the sun. Returns to Constantinople in time of famine, 'an English penny loaf of bread being worth a crown of gold.'

Is imprisoned in iron chains, grievously pinched with extreme penury at Constantinople, with 2000 other Christian slaves.

Webbe, on behalf of 500 Christian slaves, works through a 14 feet wall. Their attempt to escape is discovered, and they are punished, p. 28.

1585. Oct. 29.

The Grand-Vizier, Osman Pasha dies.

1588. 21. 34.

'Soone after the death of the great Basha' Mr. Harborne ransoms about 30 English men, 'whereof' Webbe was one cf the last."

Journeying towards England, he came by land to Venice. Then singularly enough, goes southward through Italy.

At Padua, he is tried for a heretic.

At Ferrara, he is well entertained.

At Bologna, an Englishman, a Catholic Bishop, Doctor

Poole, shows him great friendship At Florence, he meets another Englishman, Mr. John

At Rome, he is to days in trouble with the Pope and Cardinal Allen, but they let him pass, giving him 25 crowns. The English College however make a fool of him and imprison him three days, from which he is delivered by another Englishman.

\*Aug.

He is reviled with lying rumours as to the success of the Spanish Armada. Mr. Harborne and suite leave Constantinople; return-

Aug. 3

CHRONICLE.

Takes lodgings in a lackwall, where he writes his narrative, finally on He dedicates his book.

May 19

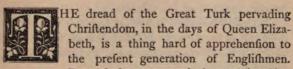


## THE TRAVELS

OF

## EDWARD WEBBE.

## INTRODUCTION.



Beyond the comparatively petty inteffine quarrels of Christian princes, there feemed furely furging onwards the great wave of Mahomedan invafion. In numbers incalculable, in numbers apparently inexhaustible, the Turks had poured into Europe. Hardly a century had expired fince they had blotted out the Eastern Roman Empire,-the venerable polity of eleven centuries, the bridge between ancient and modern hiftory. Within that century, they had conquered Greece, Egypt, Rhodes, and Cyprus; had penetrated into Italy; and had carried devastation through Hungary, to the very walls of Vienna. Even now the fouthern nations of Europe were grappling with them, as in a death struggle. Crushing defeats, such as 'The great fea-fight of Lepanto,' and they were rare enough, feemed hardly to diminish the numbers or check the power of the Turks, or to procure for the Christians even a moment's breathing time. Need we wonder, then, it ofttimes men's hearts failed them, for fear, for dread, and for defpair?

With the power of the Great Turk confider the might of the king of Spain. In addition to Spain, the Low Countries, Naples, and Sicily, Philip II. poffeffed colonies in the New World, in the aggregate as vaft as Christendom itself. He was the most potent Christian king, drawing fabulous riches from the New World for the maintenance of large armies and sleets in the Old, which he employed as much in extinguishing the liberties of his subjects as in attempting to crush those who chose to win for themselves and their posterity, at the utmost hazard of their all, the precious effentials of existence: freedom of thought, of action, and of worship.

Contrasted with these two Empires, then at their zenith, the position of England, as an European state, was comparatively insignificant. To the Turks, the English were but a hardy variety of Christians, to whom—following their custom with regard to all the foreign nations with which they came in contact—they gave the designation, as an appropriate nickname, of 'The Clothiers.' To the Spaniards, they were execrable heretics, doomed to be conquered by them in this world, and to endless torment in the next.

Nothing but utterly reckless daring, nothing but almost superhuman endurance and courage, nothing but a national character deeply imbued with the simplest reliance upon the Saviour of mankind, could save—did save our island home from the ultimate grasp of one or other of these mighty despotisms.

By the good providence of God, the fcale has been turned. Victoria benignly rules an Eastern Empire more populous than that of Amurath; fosters colonies larger and richer—richer not only in gold 'that perisheth,' but in all the constituents of human happiness, all the elements of human progress—than ever possessed Philip II.; and is enthroned in the hearts of a people more united and infinitely more powerful than were ever the subjects of her great predecessor, Elizabeth.

Though the following jottings from the memory—enfeebled by fuffering—of 'a simple man void of learning,' are of but little historical value; they give us a paffing glimpse of the vast whirlwind of conflicting forces then raging over Southern Europe; of some of the dangers that beset English commerce beyond the narrow seas; and of that English pluck and endurance which won unto itself the power and renown which have come down to us from our foresathers.

Webbe is every inch an Englishman. In nothing more so than in the cheerful, modest, yet dauntless desire with which—after having through eighteen years of slavery experienced what could be inslicted upon him by the severity of the Tartars, by the harsher cruelty of the Turks, and by the still sercer ferocity of the Christians—he concludes his narrative:—
'I shall be glad and do daylie desire that I may be imployed in some such service as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.' The epic of modern history is to be found in the Elizabethan age.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY.

#### EDWARD WEBBE HIS TRAUAILES.

(a) Essues in the Marrator's life time.

I. As a separate publication.

1. [1590]. London. 1 vol. 4to. Editio princeps: fee title on opposite page. It has no wood cuts. [Of this first edition the only other Copy as yet known is that purchased at Nassau's fale by Mr. Jadis, at whose sale again it was purchased for £14 14s. Grenville Catalogue, British Museum.]

2. [1590]. London. 1 vol. 4to. Printed by A. J. for VVilliam Barley, dvvelling in Gratious streete neere leaden hall.

A reprint of No. 1; with the addition of fix woodcuts, one of which, repeated also as a frontispiece, represents Webbe as a young man walking.

3. 1590. London. 1 vol. 4to. Second edition. Newly enlarged and corrected by the Author. London. Printed for William Wright. 1590. With fix woodcuts, five of which are those of No. 2: the portrait of Webbe, also repeated as a frontispiece, being altered to an older man firing a cannon.

The only important addition is the following in the 'Epistle to the Reader.'

'And whereas in the first edition of this booke a great fault in number did negligently escape in Folio 3 [see page 21.] in these wordes 30 thousand for 500 thousand: and 50 thousand for 500 thousand. that fault is truely amended in this Edition.' These alterations have been made in the present edition.

(b) Essue subsequent to the Parrator's death.

I. As a separate publication.

4. I May 1868. English Reprints: fee title at page 1. London. I vol. 8vo.



## Rare and most vvonderful

# thinges which Edward Webbe

an Englishman borne, hath seene and passed in his troublesome trauailes, in the Citties of Ierufalem, Dammasko, Bethelem and Galely: and in the Landes of Iewrie, Egipt, Gtecia, Russia, and in the Land of Prester Iohn.

Wherein is fet foorth his extreame flauerie fustained many yeres togither, in the Gallies and wars of the great Turk against the Landes of Persia, Tartaria, Spaine, and Portugall, with the manner of his releasement, and comming into Englande in May last.

## LONDON,

Printed by Ralph Blower, for Thomas Pauier, & are to be folde at his fhop in Corn-hill, at the figne of the Cat and Parrats, ouer against Popeshead alley, nere the Royal Exchange.





## The Epistle to the Reader.



Vrteous Reader, I have undertaken in this fhort discourse, to vtter vnto thee ye most part of such things as I saw and passed in the time of my troublesome travell and slauish life susteyned in the Gallies, and

wars of the great Turke.

And this I do protest, that in this booke there is nothing mentioned or expressed, but that which is of truth: and what mine own Eies haue perfectly feene. Some foolish perfons perhaps will cavel and fav, that thiefe are but Lies and fables: and that it conteyneth nothing elfe: but to those I aunswere, that whatfoeuer is herein mentioned, he whofoeuer he be, that shall foe finde faulte, and doubt of the trueth hereof, let him but make inquirie of the best and greatest trauellers and Merchants about all this land: and they doubtles will refolue them that it is true which is here expressed: with a great deale more, which now I cannot call to remembrance, for that my memory faileth me, by meanes of my great and greeuous troubles. From my lodging at Black-wall, this nineteenth of May. 1590.

Your Loving cuntreman,
EDVVARD WEBBE.



TO THE MOST MIGHTY, MY GRATIOVS AND RENOWNED SOVERAIGNE, ELIZABETH by the grace of God Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c.

YOVR HIGHNESSE MOST HVMBLE SVBIECT, Edward VVeb, hartely prayeth for the continuance of your Maiesties health and prosperous raigne to the worldes ende.

Onfidering (most Gracious and dread Soueraigne) the wonderful prouidence of Almightie god shewed towardes your Highnesse fince the time of your most happie and prosperous raigne, aswell in the pre-

feruation of your Maiesties person from the handes of your highnesse enemies, as also, in defending this small Angle or Realme of Englande from the force of forraine foes: and the continuall blessings of peace and plentie, with which euer since, he hath in bountifull fort maintained it: I coulde not therefore but (according to my dutie) render humble thankes to almightie god for the same when to my great comfort, euen in the midst of my thraldome in Turkie, I did heare it most truely reported by a Christiane Captiue, and your Highnesse Clemencie, by him highly commended. The Report of whose same truly discribed, as well in the administration of instice, and supporting of Christian religion, as also in relieuing and succouring the poore

diffressed members of this lande, gaue me iust cause to pray hartely for my deliuerie, and to long inwardly, vntill I came to fee your highnesse (my dread Soueraigne) and this my Natiue Cuntrey: and now having obteyned my long expected wish, I doe in all humbleneffe proftrate my felfe, and this plaine difcourfe of my trauels to your most excellent Maiestie: wherein may be feene, that if in Turkie I would have denied my Christ, or in my trauel [I] woulde haue forsaken my Prince to have ferued for Spaine, thereby to have become a traytour to your Maiestie and my natiue Cuntrey, I needed not to have lived in want, but in great prosperitie: but for as much as almightie God hath now fet me free from thraldome, and deliuered me from many daungers, and fent me into Englande, my defire is that I may be imployed in fuch feruice and affaires, as may be pleafing to God, and found profitable to my prince and cuntrey. And thus trufting your Highnesse will accept in good worth this true discourse (though rudely penned) I most humbly take my leaue, most hartely praying to the almightie god, for the prosperous health and continuall Raigne of your most excellent Maiestie

Your Highnesses humble subject,

Ed. Web.





## Verses Written vppon the Alphabet of the Queenes Maiesties name.

E ternall God, who guideth still your grace,

L engthen your life, in health and happie days.

I nspire your subjects heartes in euery place:

Z ealous in Loue, and free from fecret hate,

A nd shorten life in those that breede debate.

B eholde her Lorde, who is our strength and stay

E uen he it is, by whom we holde our owne:

T urne not thy face from her in any way,

H ew downe her foes, and let them all be knowne.

R Enowned Queene, your highnesse subjectes joy,

E uen for to seé the fall of all your foes:

G od of his mercy shielde you from annoy

I ntending treasons, still for to disclose:

N one of vs all, but wil most duely pray,

A lmightie God preferue you night and day.

FINIS.



## Ed. Webbe his tranailes.

EDWARD WEB an englishman, borne at S. Katherins, neere ye Tower of London, was the sonne of one Richard Web master gunner of England: my father hauing some natural affection to me, when I was but xij yeares olde, did prefer me to the service of Captaine Jenkenson, at such time as he was sent Ambassador into Russia, with whom I went by Sea, and vpon him I was daylie attendant: in which my journey, I was conversant among ye people of that

Cuntrey, which were apparelled like the Turkes and Tartarians, with furde Caps and long garments down to their fhins: much like to Carbines or Horfe-

men readie to ye warre.

There I made my abode fome space in the head Cittie of Ruffia called Musko, in which their building is all of Firre, except the Emperors Court, which is of lime and stone. They execute very sharpe lawes among themselues, and are a kinde of Tyranous People as appeareth by their customs, of which, among many other, these I specially noted: (viz.) that if any man be indebted one to another and doth not make paiment at his day and time appointed: the officers may enter vppon the debtors, and forceably breake down their houses, and imprison them in grieuous fort where iudgment shal presently passe against him, which is with a mallet of wood he shall have so many blowes on the shinnes or on the fore-heade, as the Iudge shall awarde: and this punishment shall be inflicted fundry daies upon him. The Turks do also vfe to beate Debtors with a Mallet, but not in that fort, for in Turkie they are beaten for debt vpon the foles of their feet with a Cane, or elfe a Cudgell, if that paiment be not made by a day. I also noted that if any Nobleman do offend ye Emperor of Russia, the saide Nobleman is taken and imprisonned with al his Children and kinssolides, and the first great frost that commeth, (for the Cuntery is wonderfully cold and subject to much frost) there is a great hole made in the Ise ouer some great Riuer, and then the partie principal is put in, and after him his wise, his Children, and all other his kins-solkes; and so leave none of his posteritie to possesse his Lands or goodes, but the same are bestowed uppon others, at the Emperors

pleafure.

There I staide 3 veeres attendant on my maister, in which time the Crime-Tartarians [otherwife named the new Christians made warre vpon the faid Cittie of Musko,2 which foone after was betrayed, and fpeadely burned, the People in great aboundance maffacred. and the Tartarian Souldiers had wonderfull greate and rich spoyles, in the same: there was I at that time with vij. other Englishmen taken prisoners, and for flaues were conucied to Caffa, where the king of the Tartarians abideth and keepeth a flatly Court: being conueved thither, we were fet to wipe the feet of the kings horses, and to become ordinarie flaues in the faid Court, to fetch water, cleaue wood, and to do fuch other drudgery. There were we beaten three times a weeke with a horse tayle: and thus in this fort and miferable feruitude wee flayed there fiue yeeres, then were we ranfomed from thence by our friendes, where we paide euery man 300. crownes, which is vij. s. vi d. a peece of English money. Among that people called ye Tartarians, I noted especially this one thing, that their Children being new borne, do neuer open their eyes vntill they be ix. dayes and ix. nights olde. Thus being ranfomed as is aforefaid, I returned home into England, where having flaied fome fmal time, I went againe into Ruffia in the hart of mafter Kings of Ratcliffe with thirty faile of ships more in our company, at

which time her Maiesties shippe called the Willoughby was our Admirall, and the Harry appertayning to the company of the Marchants, was our Viceadmirall, Maister William Burrow then being our Captaine and maister: in which our voyage we met with v. Rovers or men of war, whom we fet vppon, and burnt their Admirall, and brought those ships into Narr, and there the men ware maffacred in this manner by the Ruffians: first great stakes driven into the grounde, and they spitted vppon Powles, as a man wouldeput a Pig vpon a Spitte, and fo vij. fcore were handled in that manner in very Tyranous fort. We valaded our bourthen at Narre, and tooke in our lading for our commodities, but the ship wherein I was (which is called the Hart) having fayled but xij. miles from thence, stroke vpon a Rocke, whereby the thip and goodes were loft, the refidue of the fleet had no harme, and all the men faued their liues by taking themselves into the Boat of the same ship.

By meanes of which ship so cast away, I lost all that I had, and then came againe into England, and gathered a new stocke, and in the Henrie of London I went to Levanra alias Legorne. This ship called the Henrie had bin solde before to Doctor Hector, and other Italian Marchants, which was vnknowne vnto vs, so that at our comming to Legorne the ship was seized on by the sactors of those that were the owners thereof, and by them laden with merchantdize to Alexandria, in which voyage my

felfe was Master gunner.

But heere fortune began to lowre on me againe, and turne her wheele in fuch fort against me, as I that was foone after brought to liue in greater slauerie than euer I did before, for we having saffie ariued at Alexandria, dischardged our burthen: and fraughted our ship with great store of that Cuntrey commodities, and returning back to Legorne, suddainly in the way, we met with Fiftie saile of the Turkes Gallies: with which Gallies, we fought two dayes and two nights, and made great slaughter amongst their men, we being in all but three score men very

weake for fuch a multytude, and hauing loft 50. of 60. men, faintnes constrayned vs for to yeeld vnto them, by reason we wanted Winde to help our selus withall, and the Calme was so great a helpe vnto them, as there was no way for vs to escape. Thus did the Turkes take the ship and goodes, and in the same found x of vs liuing whom they tooke Prisoners and presently stripped vs naked, and gaue vs 100 blowes a peece, for presuming to sight against them.

Then were we fent to *Conflantinople*, and then committed to the Gallies, where we continued the fpace of vi veeres: the manner of our vfage, there, was thus.

First we were shauen head and face, and then a shirt of Cotten and Breeches of the same put vppon vs, and our Legs and Feete lest naked, and by one of the seet is each slaue chayned with a great chaine to the Gallie, and our handes fastned with a payre of manacles. The foode which I and others did eat, was very blacke, far worse then Horse-breade, and our drinke was slinking water, (vnlesse it be when we come to the places where we tooke in fresh water] at which time we supposed our diet to be very daintie.

Thus as I faide before, I remained vj. yeeres in this miferable flate, wonderfully beaten and mifvfed euery day: there haue I feene fome of my fellowes when they haue bin fo weake as they could not row by reason of ficknes and faintnes, where ye Turkes woulde lay vpon them as vpon Horses, and beat them in such fort, as oft times they dyed, and then threw them into the Sea.

Thus feeing my felfe still to continue in this miferable state, I was constrained for want of victualles, to discouer my felfe and to shew them that I had good skill in Gunners art, which I thought would haue bin greatly wel esteemed at the Turkes handes: but then for the same, I was more narrowly looked vnto, yet somewhat better esteemed of, then I was before. Not long after, the Turke made warres against the Persians, and gathered vij. hundred thousand men togither, and these were conducted by his chief Bassaes into Persia:

At which time (for that I had skil in Artillery) I was chosen foorth of the Gallies, to go with the Armie into the lande of Persia, and there to do the Turke service in the fielde, with whom I trauailed on foote, but in our going thither, their dyed of our Armie, by meanes of great ficknes, diet, and want of Victuals, about the number of 300, thousand fo that when wee came into perfia, we were foure [hundred] thousand strong in the fielde, there wee refted vs one moneth, by which time, we (hauing hartened our felves) gaue a fierce affault against the Persians, where the Turks side got the worst, and loft 60 thousand men. Then the generall ouer the Turkes Armie, whose name was Sannon Basha, sent vs fo many fouldiers more as made vs 500 thousand ftrong, there we staide for a long time, making warres against the Persians, and the greate Cittie of Damasco, where the Turke little preuayled: for if that the Turke were as pollitick as he is strong of power, the Persians were not able to refift him.

Thus leaving the Turkes Armie in Perfia, we came through Damasco to our Cittie called the great *Caer*. which Cittie is three score miles in compasse, and is the greatest Cittie in the world, it standeth vpon the river of Nilo, and in the said Cittie, there is 12 thou-

fand Churches, which they tearme Mufcots.

This Cittie at all times keepeth xl. thousand men continually in Souldiers pay, and are ready at one houres warning to serue under the Turke: there we staide to see the cutting or parting of the Riuer of Nilo, which is done once euery yeere, vpon the 25 of August. This Cittie standeth in the land of Egipt, and is vnder the gouernment of the great Turke. And there is a king ouer the saide Cittie, who is called the king of the great Caer, and ye Wize Roy or Liestenant to the great Turke, and he is then present at the cutting or parting of this river of Nilo: at which time there is a great triumph, and euery Towne and Cuntrey round about to the value of a thousand mile, send guists and presents to the king of the great Caer, in consideration.

of the water which commeth to them from that Riuer of Nilo by meanes of the cutting of it, which is but once

euery yeere.

It is therefore to be vnderflood, that in ve Land of Egipt it rayneth not at all, and all the grounde throughout the lande of Egipt is continually watred by the water which vppon ye 25 day of August is turned into the cuntries round about, by means of ve wonderfull growing and fwelling of the water vpright without any flay at all, on the one fide thereof, it is to ve height of a huge mountaine, which beginneth to increase the 15. day of August, and by the 25. of the same moneth it is at the highest, on which day it is cut by ye deuiding of 2 pillars in a straunge fort, neere to the cittie of ye great Caer. and fo turned as off from a great mountaine into the lande of Egipt: by meanes whereof, the Turke holdes all the land of Egipt in fubiection to him felfe. and might if he would difmiffe them cleane from hauing any water at all.

From thence I went with the Turkes power, and vnder his conduction to the lande of Iewry, and from thence to the citty of Ierufalem, where part of the olde Temple is yet flanding, and many Monuments of great antiquitie, as herein after shall be shewed.

In the Land of Siria, there is a river that no Iew can catch any fish in it at all, and yet in the same river there is great store of fish like vnto Samon trouts: But let a Christian or a Turke come thither and fish for them, and eyther of them shall catch them in great aboundance, if they do but put their hande into the water with a little bread, and an hundred will be about his hand.

Thus having feene a number of rare and most wonderful things, we went to the citty of Agowa, which is ye head and chief citty in all ye East Indies, there wee gaue Battell against ye Christians yat keep ye said citty, which are Portugals, for that ye Town appertaineth to ye king of Portugal. In this place wee gaue Battle and lost xx thousand of ye Turks men, and yet

could not obtain it: Neuertheles ye great Turks Lieftenant or Generall with his power toke a place called Armous, where they had great flore of Treasure and Sowes of Silver.

Thus being chiefe maister Gunner in these Turkish warres, I was fent for againe by commandement of ye Turk to Dafmaseo, where I staied all that winter with xx thousand men. And from thence made prouision to make wars against the land of Prester Iohn, who is by profession a Christian. In this land of Prester Iohn. when it doth raine, it continueth at the least one whole moneth. And in ye graund Caer, there is a plague once in euery vij yeeres, which commeth with fuch a fiercenes, that the most part of all the people there do die of the faid plague: and people in great numbers lofe their Eie fight with the vapours and great heat which commeth from the ground.

I remember one battaile, which ye Admirall of the great Turke named Ally Basha made with three-score Gallies, and feazed vpon a towne where the faid Ally Basha was borne himselfe, named Trybusas, which is in ve confines of Calabria and vnder ve gouernment of the king of Spaine, at which towne he landed his Armie an houre before day, thinking to haue taken it by treason: and there vpon in great fury scaled the wals with lathers: but the watch bewraied vs. and on a fodaine, cried Arme, Arme, which was foone done: for every man tooke him to his tooles and weapons of

defence.

But it is worthy of memorie, to fee how the women of ve towne did plie themselues with their weapons. making a great maffacre vpon our men, and murthered 500 of them in fuch speedie and furious fort as is wonderfull: we needed not to have feared their men at all, had not ve women bin our great ouerthrow, at which time I my felfe was maister Gunner of the Admirals Gally, yet chainde greeuously, and beaten naked with a Turkish sword flatling, for not shooting where they would have me, and where I could not shoot. It is but a few yeares fince, that in the cittie of Constantinople, there happned a great plague, where there dyed in fix monethes space, seuen hundred thousand, persons, at which time master Harbarn Ambassadour for the Turkie company was there, and lost sundry of his feruants.

From Damasco we went into the land of prester Iohn who is a Christian, and is called Christien de Sentour: that is, the Christian of the Gerdell: against this prester Iohn, I went with the Turks power, and was then their maister Gunner in the field, ye number of Turkish Souldiers sent thither, was fine hundred thousand men who went thither by land, and pitched themselues in battaile ray at Saran, neere to the place wher the fon of prester Iohn keepeth his Court. There Prester Iohn with his power, flew of ye Turks the number of 60, thousand. onely by policie of drawe Bridges to let foorth water, made as fecrete flewfes for that purpose, in which water fo many Turks perished. The next day following, the Turkes power did incompasse Prester Johns sonne and tooke him prisoner, and sent him for a present to ve great Turks Court then being at Constantinople, but soone after, prester Iohn himselse made an agreement betweene the greate Turke and his fonne, that the one shoulde not demaund tribute of the other, and so his fonne was released and fent home againe.

This Prester Iohn of whom I spake before, is a King of great power, and keepeth a very bountifull Court, after the manner of that Cuntrey, and hath euery day to serue him at his Table, sixty kinges, wearing leaden Crownes on their heads, and those serue in the meat vnto Prester Iohns Table: and continually the first dish of meat set vppon his Table, is a dead mans scull cleane picked and laide in black Earth: putting him in minde that he is but Earth, and that he must die, and shal become Earth againe.

These 60 Kings are all his Wize Royes in seuerall places, and they have their Deputies to supply their Roomes, and those kings live continually in Prester

Iohns Courte, and go no furder then they may be flill attendant vppon him, without leaue of their Emperour Prefter Iohn.

In the Court of Prester Iohn, there is a wilde man, and an other in the high street at Constantinople, whose allowance is every day a quarter of Raw Mutton: and when any man dyeth for some notorious offence, then are they allowed every day a quarter of mans sless.

These wilde men are chained fast to a post every day, the one in Prester Iohns Court, and the other r. the high street of Constantinople, each of them having a Mantel cast about their shoulders, and all over their bodies they have wonderfull long haire, they are Chained fast by the neck, and will speedily devoure any man that commeth in their reach.

There is also a Beast in the Court of Prester Iohn, called Arians, having 4 heades, they are in shape like a wilde Cat, and are of the height of a great mastie Dog.

In this Court likewife, there is Fowles caled Pharses foules whose feathers are very beautifull to be worne, these fowles are as big as a Turkie, their flesh is very sweet, and their feathers of all manner of Collours.

There is Swannes in that place, which are as lardge againe as the Swannes of Englande are, and their

Feathers are as blew as any blew cloath.

I haue feen in a place like a Park adioyning vnto prefter Iohns Court, three fcore and feuen-teene, Vnicornes and Eliphants all aliue at one time, and they were fo tame that I haue played with them as one would play with young Lambes.

When Prester Iohn is serued at his table, there is no salt at all set one in any salt sellar as in other places, but a loase of Bread is cut crosse, and then two kniues are layde a crosse vpon the loase, and some salt put vpon the blades of the kniues and no more.

Being thus in the land of prester Iohn, I travelled within Eighteene degrees of ye Sun, every degree

being in diftance three fcore miles.

I was at the Red Sea, at the place where Moyfes made passage with his wande for the Children of Israell, where I saw a Ship called the graund Maria, she drawes but xj foot water, and against this ship lx Gallies and ships have fought at one time, and cannot conquer her: and this is vnder the government of ye great Turke.

I have been in the Courts of the three great Patriarkes, the first whereof is kept at Ierusalem, the second at the Gran Caer, and the third at Constantinople: these have their Courts in very stately fort, and at-

tended on by none but Priefts.

When I was at Ierusalem, I saw the Sepulchre wherein (it is saide) Christ was buried: it is as it were in a Vault, and hath vij Dores, and vij Roes of Marble steppes or stayres to go downe into the same, and then at the bottom of ye stayres, there is a faire Chappel, with an Altar and a Lamp burning continually day and night before it, and the Graue is full of white Earth, as white as Chalke, and a Toombe of ye same Earth made, and laide vppon Stone, wheron are sundry Letters written, but I could not read them.

The great Turk hath fome profit comming by ye keeping thereof, and hath therefore builded at his owne charges an Hospital within Ierusalem, which his Genezaries doe keepe; and this Hospitall is to receive all Pilgrims and trauellers to lodge in whenfoeuer they come. And all that come to fee the sepulchre doe pay ten Crownes a-peece, whereof the Turke hath but one. and the rest goes to the Church, and so they may stay there as long as they lift to lodge in that new Hospitall. and haue lodging, bread, victuals and water fo long as they will remaine there, but no wine: fuch as come thither for Pilgrims have no beds at all, but lie vpon the ground on Turkey Carpets, and before the fepulcher of Christ there is masse said euerie day, and none may fay the maffe there, but a man that is a pure virgin: there was one that dved while I was there, that daily

faid and fung maffe before the fepulcher, and he was an hundred and thirtie yeares of age before his death, and now another is in his Roome, but whether ye old man that dead is, or this which is now in the place to fing and fay the faid Maffe, were pure Virgins I know not, but fure I dare not fweare for them, because they bee

men, and flesh and bloud as other are.

After that I had thus long trauelled and fpent my time in the warres and affaires of the great Turke, I was returned againe to Conftantinople, where at my ariuall, a pennie loafe of Breade (of English starling money) was worth a crowne of gold: fuch was the fcarfitie, Sicknes, Mifery and Dearth then vpon ve faid Cittie, and happie was he that fo could get Breade to eate. Neuertheleffe, because I was a Christian, and for that ye Turke had no cause presently to vse me in my office of gunnership, I was there imprisoned, where I found two thousand. Christians pind vp in ston wals lockt fast in yron chaines, grieuously pinched, with extreme penury, and fuch as wished death rather then in foch mifery to liue: amongst these was I placed, and tooke part with them accordingly: greeuing at my hard hap that the warres had not ended me before I came thether.

Thus I remained there with the reft, garded and daily watched, that we could flir no manner of way, there wee were fuffered to worke vpon any manner of trade or occupation wherein we were any way expert: and what we did or made, we fold to the Turkes, and they gaue vs money for the fame: and thus were we fuffered to worke vntill it were time to goe and gather Snowe, which is there vfed yearely of Custome to be gathered: for the Turke hath great summes of mony paide him for ye said snow, which is gathered and solde to his subjects for a peny the pound, which pound, is two pound and a halfe English: and this snow they use only to coole their drinke in the summer season. And no man may sell any snowe vntill the Turke hath solde all his.

Thus liuing in this flauish life as is aforesaid, divers of vs complotted and hammered into our heads how we might procure our releasement: wherevpon I attempted with the confent of 5 hundreth Christians, fellow flaues with my felfe, to breake a wall of fourteene foote broad. made of earth, lyme, and fand, which we greatly moistened with strong Vinegar, so that the wall being made moift therewith through the help of a fpike of yron, fiue hundred of us had almost escaped out of prison: but looke what shall be, shal be, and what God will have, shal come to passe and no more, as appeareth by vs, for we having made meanes for our fpeedie flight, as we were iffuing foorth, we were bewrayed by ye barking of a dog, which caufed the Turkes to arife, and they taking vs with the maner stopped vs from flying away, and gaue vs in recompence of our paines taking herein, feauen hundred blowes a peece vpon the naked skinne, viz. three hundred on the belly, and foure hundred on ye back.

Thus lying still Prisoner in the Turkes dungeons, it pleased God to send thether for the releasemente of me and others, a worthy gentleman of this land, named Maister Harborne, Ambassadour thether for the company of Marchants, who to the great honour of England did behaue himselfe wonderfull wifely, and was a speciall meanes for the releasement of me and sundrie other English captiues, who were set at libertie soone after the death of the great Basha: thus by the meanes of the said Maister Harborne I was set free from Thraldome, and by him sent into England where I arrived

on the first of May. 1589.

Whilft I was remaining prisoner in Turkey, and kept in such slauish manner as is Rehearsed the great Turke had his sonne circumcifed, at which time there was great tryumphes and free liberty proclaimed for a hundred daies space, that any Nobleman, gentleman, traueller, Christian or other, might freely (without being molested) come and see the tryumphes there vsed, which were woonderfull: I my selfe was there constrained to

make a cunning peece of fire work framed in form like to ye Arke of Noy, beeing 24 yardes high, and eight yardes broad, wherein was placed 40 men drawen on 6 wheeles, yet no man feene, but feemed to goe alone, as though it were onely drawen by two Fiery Dragons, in which fnew or Arke there was thirteene

thousand seuerall peeces of fire worke.

At the fame time that I was Releafed, there were fet at liberty about xx English men, whereof I was one of the last: some of them are at this present in England. My selfe and others were released by meanes of her Maiesties fauorable Letters, sent to ye great Turke, brought by the foresayd Maister Harborne: some by the Raunsome money gathered at sundry times by the Marchants in the Cittie of London, for ye Godly purpose: of which, some of their names that were released were these. Hamand Pan, John Beer, John Band,

Andrew Pullins, Edward Buggins and others.

Here may the bountiful Citizens of London fee (as in a glaffe) the fruites of their liberalitie and charitable deuotion giuen at feuerall times in the yeare towards the releasement of poore captives, such as are constrained to abide most vilde and grieuous tortures, especially the torture and torment of confciens which troubled me and all true Christians to ve very foule: for the Turk by al meanes possible would still perswade me and other my fellow Christians while I was there the time of 13 yeares, to forfake Christ to deny him, and to beleve in their God Mahomet: which if I would haue done, I might haue had wonderfull preferment of the Turke, and haue liued in as great felicitie as any Lord in that countrey: but I vtterly denved their request, though by them greeuously beaten naked for my labour, and reuiled in most detestable forte, calling me dogge, diuell, helhound, and fuch like names: but I giue God thankes he gaue me strength to abide with patience thefe croffes.

And though I were but a fimple man voide of learning, yet ftil I had in remembraunce that Christ

dyed for me, as appeareth by the holy Scriptures, and that Christ therein faith: He that denyeth me before men I will deny him before my father which is in heauen: and againe he faith: Whosoeuer beleeueth on me shall be faued, and haue life euerlasting. This comfort made me resolute, that I would rather suffer all the torments of death in the worlde, then to deny my

Saujour and Redeemer Christ Iesus.

After my free libertie granted in Turkey, I intending my iourney towardes England, came by land to Venice, where I met at Padua thirtie Englishmen studients, I met also with an Englishman, who liued in the state of a Frier, he brought me before the high Bishop, where I was accused for an hereticke, and he brought me in two sals witnesses to be sworn against me (hauing before known me in Turkey) neuerthelesse I disproued his witnesses, and they were found for sworn men, then was I set at libertie, and constrained to giue 15 Crownes towardes the sinishing our Ladies shrine at Padua: and my accuser and his witnesses punished.

From thence I came to ye Duke of Ferrara, where I was wel entertained and liberally rewarded with a horse and fiue and twentie Crownes for the sake of

the Queenes Maiestie of England.

From thence with my Pafport, I came to Bolony in Italy, where I met with a popish Bishop being an Englishman which shewed me great friendship, he is called Doctor Poole: from thence to Florence, there I met with an English gentleman named maister Iohn Stanley. And from thence I went to Rome, there I was nineteene daies in trouble with the Pope, and the English Cardinall Doctor Allen, a notable Arch-papist, where I was often examined, but finding nothing by me, they let me passe, and vnderstanding hat I had bene a captiue long time in Turkey, gaue \*xxv. crownes. And before I went out of Rome, I againe taken by ye English Colledge, and put

e into the holy house 3 daies, with a fooles coate

on my backe, halfe blew, halfe yellowe, and a cockefcombe with three bels on my head, from whence I was holpen by meanes of an Englishman whom I found there, and prefented my petition and cause to the Pope: who againe set me at libertie. From thence I departed to Naples, where I met with a Genowis, who apprehended me and brought me there before ye vice-Roy, saying I was a man of great knowledge and an English spie.

Then I was committed to a darke Dungeon xvj daies, which time they fecretly made enquiry where I had liue before, what my wordes and behauiour had beene while I was there, but they coulde finde

nothing by me.

Thrice had I ye strappado, hoisted vp backward with my hands bound behinde me, which strooke all the ioynts in my armes out of joynt, and then constrained to drinke falte water and quicklime, and then fine Lawne or Callico thrust downe my throate and pluckt vp againe ready to pluck my hart out of my belly, al to make me to confesse that I was an English spie. After this, there were source bard horses prepared to quarter me, and I was still threatened to die except I would confesse some thing to my harme.

Thus feauen moneths I endured in this miferie, and yet they coulde finde no cause against me, then I wrote to the Vice-Roy to do me iustice, and he did write to ye K[ing] of Spain to know what should be done with me: whereupon the king of Spaine wrote that I should be employed in a Gunners roome: then was I entertained, and had 35 crownes a moneth, and had ye Kinges pattent sealed for the same, and then vnderstanding that three ships were comming towardes England I departed and sled from thence with them to my natiue Cuntry, in ye Grace of London by the helpe of one Nicholas Nottingham maisser thereof. Thus came I into England with great joy and hearts delight, both to my selfe and all my acquaintance.

The report in Roome, Naples, and all ouer Italy, in my trauell which was at fuch time as the Spaniards came to inuade England, after I had beene released of my imprisonment, as I passed through the streetes, the people of that parts asked me how I durst acknowledge my felfe to be an Englishman, and therevpon to daunt me, did fay, that England was taken by the Spaniards, and the Queene of England (whome God long preferue) was taken prifoner, and was comming towards Rome to doe pennance: and that her highnes was brought thither, through defarts, moift, hilly and foule places: and where plaine ground was, holes and hollow trenches were digged in the way of her Maieflies paffage, to ye intent that the might have gone vp to the mid leg in oes or mire: with these speeches they did check me, and I faid, yat I trufted God doubtles would defend my Prince better, then to deliuer her into the hands of her enemies, wherefore they did greatly reuile me.

Many things I have omitted to speake of, which I haue feen and noted in the time of my troublefome trauel. One thing did greatly comfort me which I faw long fince in Sicilia, in the citie of Palermo, a thing worthy of memorie, where the right honorable the Earle of Oxenford a famous man for Chiualrie at what time he trauelled into forraine Countries, being then perfonally prefent, made there a challeng against al manner of persons whatsoeuer, and at all maner of weapons, as Turniments. Barriors with horse and armour, to fight a combat with any whatfoeuer. In the defence of his Prince and countrey: for which he was verie highly commended, and yet no man durst be fo hardy to encounter with him, fo that all Italy ouer, he is acknowledged the onely Chiuallier and Noble man of England. This title they give vnto

him as worthily deferued.

Moreouer, in the land of Egipt neere to the Riuer of Nilo, within fixe miles of the Gran Caer. There are feauen Mountaines builded on the out fide, like anto ye point of a Diamond, which Mountaines were builded in King *Pharoes* time for to keepe Corne in,

and they are Mountaines of great strength.

It is also faide, that they were builded about that time when *lofeph* did lade home his Brethrens Asses with Corne, in the time of the great dearth mentioned in the Scripture: At which time, all their Corne lay in those mountaines.

In the Riuer of Nilo, there is long Fishes that are of tenne or twelue foote long, which swimmeth neere the shore, they are called the fishes of King *Pharao*,

they are like vnto a Dolphin

These Fishes are so subtile, that swimming neere the shore side, they will pull men or women sodeinly

into the River and deuoure them.

In the Citie of the gran Caer, the houses are of a very olde building, all of Lime and stone, and in most of the houses the rooses are couered with fine gold, in

a very workemanly fort.

In Egipt there is fmall flore of water, because it neuer raineth in that Country, so that their water is very dangerous to drinke. They have no springs at all in that country, and yet there falleth such a dew every night, as doth refresh and keeps their hearbes and plantes in due fort, and makes them spring very fruitfully

The Citie of Damasco is very fruitfull and greatly replenished with al manner of fruites whatsoeuer, as Pombgranades, Orenges, Limons, Apples, Peares,

Plumbes, Grapes, and all other like fruites.

The Turkes are a people yat at fome time they will attempt to doe wonderfull things as going vpon Ropes, and thrusting their swords in their naked flesh, and stricke their sworde in their flesh like vnto a Scabbard; and many other things of great daunger.

In Turkie no man may strike the graunde Cady, that is their chiefest Iudg, if any man do strike him, immediatly he loseth his Right Arme for his offence,

without Redemption.

At my comming ouer into Englande from Rome, I was faine to steal away, beeing then in yeerely fee to the King of Spaine, to be one of his chiefest Gunners.

And if the Ship where in I came ouer, had bin taken, both they and I my felfe had dyed for that of-

fence.

The old Cittie of Ierusalem is a very delicat place, and nothing there to be seene but a little of the old walles which is yet Remayning: and all the rest is Grasse, Mosse and weedes much like to a peece of Rank or moist grounde. They have no Tillage at all in that partes.

The Citty of *Ierufalem* where the Temple now flandeth is almost a mile from the olde walles of Ierufalem: it is of a maruellous olde building, and there flandeth the old Relicks preferued and kept as Monu-

ments of great treasure.

Now to Returne where I left off, and declare vnto you in what fort I imploide my felfe fince my first entring into englande: heere I visited my friendes from May till November, and then I departed into Fraunce, where I had good entertainment at the Hands of the Renowned King and Captaine of this age, Henry of Burbon, King of Fraunce and Navarre, who Received me into Pay, and appointed me for his chiefe M[aister] Gunner in the fielde.

So that vppon Ash-wednsday last, at his most Renowned Battle fought vppon the plaine of Saint Andrew neere vnto *Drevx*: I was in feruice vnder him, where I gaue 3 charges vppon the Enemie, and they in steede thereof, gaue vs sisteene shot, and yet

God be thanked peruailed not against vs.

There were wee conftrained to make Bulwarkes of the dead bodies of our Enemies and of the Carcaffes of dead Horses: where for my paines taking that day, the king greatlye commended me, and honorably Rewarded me.

But shortly after my first arivall in Fraunce, I was hated by some lewde Gunners who envying that I

fhould haue the Title to be Master Gunner in Fraunce, practifed against me, and gave me poyson in drinke that night: which thing when the King vnderstoode, he gave order to the governor of Deepe, that his Phisition should presently see vnto me, who gave me speadely Unicorns horne to drinke, and there by God and the Kings great goodnesse, I was againe restored to my former health.

Thus have you hearde the manner of my cruell and most grieuous travaile, my miserie, slaverie, and crueltie which I have suffered therein, the manner of some olde Ornamentes and the customes of such as dwell in forraine nations far off, and in places where our Saviour and his Apostles were resident, and preached vpon the Earth: my fervice done vnder ye great Turke, of Persia, Tatarica, Grecia, and other places of service, I have omitted therein my fervice done at the taking of Tunnis, and what I did in the Royle vnder Duke Iohn of Austria: and many other thinges which I coulde heere discover vnto you: onely let this suffise, that I shall be glad, and do daylie desire that I may be imployed in some such service as may be profitable to my Prince and Cuntrey.

## PHNIE.



t. CAPTURE OF DANISH FREEBOOTERS, BY THE ENGLISH RUSSIA FLEET, IO JULY 1570. – In a letter to the Emperor of Ruffia, dated Narue, 15 July 1570, by Christopher Hodsdon and Captain William Burrough, there is a full description of the captain

ture of these Danish pirates.

Most mightie Emperour, &c. Whereas Sir William Garrard and his felowship the company of English merchants, this last Winter fent hither to the Narue three ships laden with merchandife, which was left here, and with it Christopher Hodsdon one of the favd fellowship, and their chiefe doer in this place, who when hee came first hither, and vntill such time as hee had dispatched those ships from hence, was in hope of goods to lade twelue or thirteene failes of good ships, against this shipping, wherefore he wrote vnto the fayd Sir William Garrard and his companie to fend hither this fpring the fayd number of thirteene ships. And because that in their comming hither wee found the Freebooters on the fea, and fuppofing this yeere that they would be very ftrong, he therefore gaue the faid Sir William and his Companie aduife to furnish the fayd number of ships so strongly, as they should bee able to withftand the force of the Freebooters: whereupon they have according to his adulfe fent this year thirteene good ships together well furnished with men and munition, and all other necessaries for the warres, of which 13. ships William Burrough one of the faid felowship is captaine generall, vnto whom there was given in charge, that if hee met with any the Danske Freebooters, or whatfoeuer robbers and theeues that are enimies to your highnesse, he should doe his best to apprehend and take them. It so happed that the tenth day of this moneth, the fayd William with his fleete, met with sixe ships of the Freebooters neere vnto an Island called Tuttee, which is about 50. versts from Narue, vnto which Freebooters he with his fleet gaue chafe, and tooke of them the Admirall, wherein were left but three men, the rest were fled to shore in their boats amongst the woods vpon Tuttee, on which ship he set fire and burnt her. He also tooke soure more of those ships which are now here, and one ship escaped him: out of which foure thips fome of the men fled in their boates and fo escaped, others were flaine in fight, and some of them when they faw they could not escape, cast themselves willingly into the Sea and were drowned. So that in these fine ships were left but 83. men.

The fayd Wil. Borough when he came hither to Narue, finding here Christopher Hodsdon asorenamed, both the said Christopher and William together, in the name of sir William Garrard and the rest of their whole companie and selowship, did present with your highnesses of their whole companie and selowship, did present with your highnesses men, which we deliuered here vito Knez Voiuoda, the 13. of this moneth. One man of those Freebooters we have kept by vs, whose name is Haunce Snarke a captaine. And the cause why we have done it is this: When we should have delivered him

with the reft of his felowes vnto the Voiuodaes officers, there were of our Englishmen more then 50. which fell on their knees vnto vs. requesting that he might be reserved in the ship, and caried back into England: and the cause why they so earnestly interacted for him, is, that some of those our Englishmen had bene taken with Freebooters, and by his meanes had their liues saued, with great sauour besides, which they sound at his hands. Wherefore if it please your highnesse to permit it, we will cary him home with vs into England, wherein we request your maiesties sauour: notwithstanding what you command of him shalbe observed. Hakluyt. i. 401. Ed. 1599.

2. THE BURNING OF MOSCOW BY THE TARTARS, 24 MAY 1571.

Two accounts are preferved in Hakluyt of this catastrophe.

(1) A letter of Richard Vscombe to M. Henrie Lane, touching the burning of the Citie of Mosco by the Crimme Tartar: written

in Rose Island the 5. day of August 1571.

Mafter Lane I have me commended unto you. The 27. of July I arrived here with the Magdalene, and the fame day and houre did the Swalow and Harry arrive here also. At our comming I found mafter Proctor here, by whom wee understand very heavie newes. The Mosco is burnt every sticke by the Crimme the 24. day of May last, and an innumerable number of people: and in the English house was smothered Thomas Southam, Tofild, Wanerley, Greenes wife and children, two children of Rafe, and more to the number of 25, persons were stifeled in oure Beere feller: and yet in the same seller was Rafe, his wife. John Browne, and John Clarke preserved, which was wonderfull. And there went into that feller mafter Glouer and mafter Rowley also : but because the heate was so great, they came foorth againe with much perill, fo that a boy at their heeles was taken with the fire, yet they escaped blindfold into another feller, and there, as Gods will was, they were preferued. The Emperour fled out of the field, and many of his people were caried away by the Crimme Tartar: to wit, all the yong people, the old they would not meddle with, but let them alone, and so with exceeding much spoile and infinite prisoners, they returned home againe. What with the Crimme on the one fide, and with his crueltie on the other, he hath but few people left. Commend me to mistresse Lane your wife, and to M. Locke, and to all our friends. Yours to command, Richard V scombe. Hakluyt. i 402. Ed. 1599.

(2) Mafter Giles Fletcher. D.C.L. was fent by Queen Elizabeth. in 1588 as Ambaffador to the then Emperor of Ruffia. While returning, he reduced his observations of the state and manners of that country 'into some order': and published them under the title Of the Ruffe Common Wealth. London 1591. [Reprinted in Hakluyt. i. 474—497. Ed. 1599] His account

is as follows;

The greatest and mightiest of them [the Tartars] is the Chrim Tartar, (whom some call the Great Cham) that lieth South, and

Southeastward from Russia, and doth most annoy the Countrie by often inuafions, commonly once euery yeare, fometimes entring very farre within the inland parts. In the year 1571, he came as farre as the citie of Mosko, with an armie of 200000. men, without any battaile, or refistance at all, for that the Russe Emperour (then huan Vafilowich) leading foorth his armie to encounter with him, marched a wrong way: but as it was thought of very purpole, as not daring to aduenture the fielde, by reason that hee doubted his nobilitie, and chiefe Captaines, of a meaning to betray

him to the Tartar.

The citie he tooke not, but fired the Suburbs, which by reafon of the buildinges (which is all of wood without any stone, brick, or lime, faue certein out roomes) kindled fo quickly, and went on with fuch rage, as that it confumed the greatest part of the citie almost within the space of source houres, being of 30. miles or more of compasse. Then might you have seene a lamentable spectacle; befides the huge and mighty flame of the citie all on light fire, the people burning in their houses and streates, but most of all of fuch as laboured to passe out of the gates farthest from the enemie, where meeting together in a mightie throng, and fo pressing euery man to preuent another, wedged themselues fo fast within the gate, and streates near vnto it, as that three ranks walked one vpon the others head, the vppermoft treading downe those that were lower: so that there perished at that time (as was fayd) by the fire and the presse, the number of 800000. people, or more.

The Chrim thus having fired the Citie, and fedde his eves with the fight of it all on a light flame, returned with his armie, and fent to the Ruffe Emperour a knife (as was fayd) to flick himselfe withall : obbraiding this losse, and his desperate case, as not daring either to meet his enimy in the fielde, nor to trust his friends or fubiects at home. Chap 19. 'The borderers of

Ruffia.' fol. 66.

3. PRESTER OR PRESBYTER JOHN, was the name given by the Europeans of the middle ages to a dynasty of supposed eastern potentates. The following account is the history of this legend: -About the beginning of the eleventh century, it began to be reported in Christendom that a certain king beyond Persia and Armenia had been met by the spirit of a departed saint in a forest: that he had been overawed into becoming a true believer; and that he had ordered all his subjects, to the number of 200,000, to adopt the fame faith. As time paffed by, the report feemed to receive corroboration. Envoys pretending to come from the land in question arrived at Rome. Additional rumours, by what means nobody knew, found their way to the West. The manners and customs of this newly Christianized people were said to retain many traces of the old patriarchal times. The chief was both prieft and king, and was known on that account by the name of Prester or Presbyter John. His tribe lived a peaceful

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pastoral life, following their flocks through the desert, seeding upon flesh and milk, and being so destitute of corn and wine that they were unable in the prescribed manner to observe the sattedays, or to partake of the eucharist. Nor was the exquisite primitive simplicity of his kingdom unadorned by substantial wealth and majesty. Unbounded treasures were at his command; many neighbouring nations were his tributaries; and he swayed su-

premely with a sceptre of emerald.

Such pleafing reports as these continued to be greedily swallowed by the superstitious in Europe, until investigations commenced to be made. It then began to appear doubtful whether this happy land were not a mere Utopia, and whether this admirable Prester John were not a mere creature of the popular fancy. Carpini, a Franciscan friar who was sent by Pope Innocent IV., in 1246, on an embaffy to the Mongols, failed to discover the celebrated nation of Christians. Not long afterwards another Franciscan, William de Rubruquis, who penetrated into Asia as far as Karakorum, could find none but a few Nestorians, who had even heard of the great priest-king. Equally unsuccessful were the Portuguese explorers who reached India by the way of the Cape of Good Hope about the end of the fifteenth century. After fruitleffly feeking for the Prester in Asia, they were fain to suppose, on few or no grounds, that they had found him in Africa in the person of an Abyssinian prince. The result of all these explorations was, that inveftigators have ceafed to inquire into the truth of the story of Prester John, and turned their attention to an explanation of its origin. The most plausible solution is that given by Mosheim in his Church Hillory. He supposes that a certain Nestorian priest named John gained possession of a throne in Afiatic Tartary; that he still retained the name of Presbyter after his accession; and that the title of Prester John was inherited by his descendants along with the throne, until his dynasty was extirpated by the mighty Tartar emperor Gengiskan. - Encyclopredia Britannica, xviii., 511. Eighth Edition.

Among the curious descriptions of this fabulous empire is a small work printed in French at Rouen in 1506, of which the title is simply Perrester Iehan. While the imprint runs thus—Cy finent la diuerstic des hommes, des bestes et des oiseaux qui sont en la terre de prestre schan. Imprimees a Rouen Pour Richard rogerie

demourant a morletz.

It purports to be a letter from Prester John himself to the Emperor of Rome and the King of France, and is dated 'from our holy palace, in the year of our birth 506.' It is a tissue of marvel after marvel: so as to render it hardly credible that it was ever seriously believed in. A few sentences will show its character.

"Prester John by the grace of God all powerful king of all the Christians: to the Emperor of Rome and to the King of France, our friends, greeting. We wish you to know of our state and of government, that is to say, of our people and the different kind of our animals And because you say that our people do not agree in worshipping God as you do in your country, we wish you to know that we adore and believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are three persons in one deity and one God alone. And we certify and send to you by our letters sealed with our Seal concerning the state and manner of our land and of our people. And if you will come into our country, for the good that we have heard of you, we will make you lord after us, and will give you large lands and lordships.

Know then that we have the highest crown in all the world. Also gold, silver, and precious stones, and cities, castles, and towns. Know also that we have in our country forty-two kings, all powerful and good Christians. Know also that we support with our alms all the poor in our land whether native or foreign, for the love and honour of Jesus Christ. Know also that we have promised in good-faith to conquer the Sepulchre of our Lord

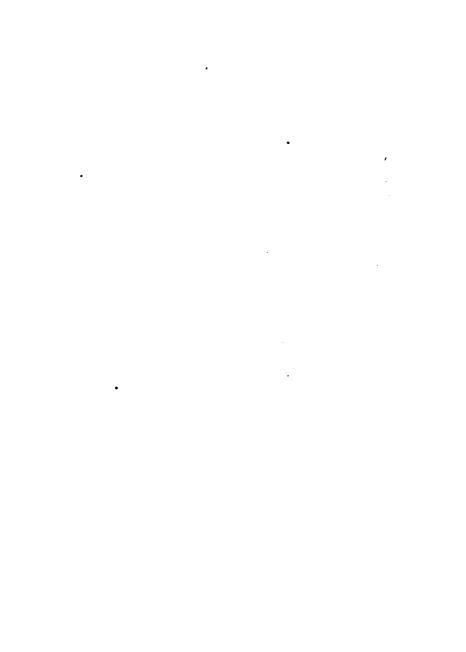
Jefus Chrift and alfo all the Land of Promife.

Also in our country are elephants [oliflans]; and another kind of animal, very great, called dromedaries; and white horses, and white oxen, and also favage cattle with feven horns; bears and lions of different colours, that is to fay, red, green, black, and white; and wild affes with little horns. . . And green horses, that go faster than any other animal in the world. Know also that we have griffons that will casily carry an ox or an horse

into their nefts for their little birds to eat.

Know also between us and the Saracens runs a river called Sydonis, which comes from the terrestrial paradise and is quite full of precious stones, that is to say, emeralds, saphirs, rubies, chalcedonies, carbuncles, topas; and several other kinds that I do not mention: and of each we know the name and vertue. Know also that in our land is an herb called parmanable; and whosever carries it upon him, can enchant the Devil and ask him where he is going, and what he is doing on the Earth, and can make him tell; upon which account the Devil dares not be in our country."





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Also in our country are elephants 'oliflans'; and another kind of animal, very great, called dromedaries; and white horses, and white oxen, and also savage cattle with seven horns; bears and lions of different colours, that is to say, red, green, black, and white; and wild assess with little horns. And green horses, that go faster than any other animal in the world. Know also that we have griffons that will easily carry an ox or an horse

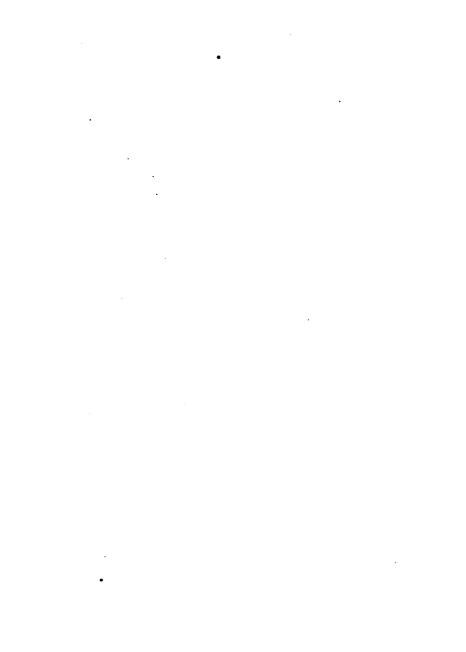
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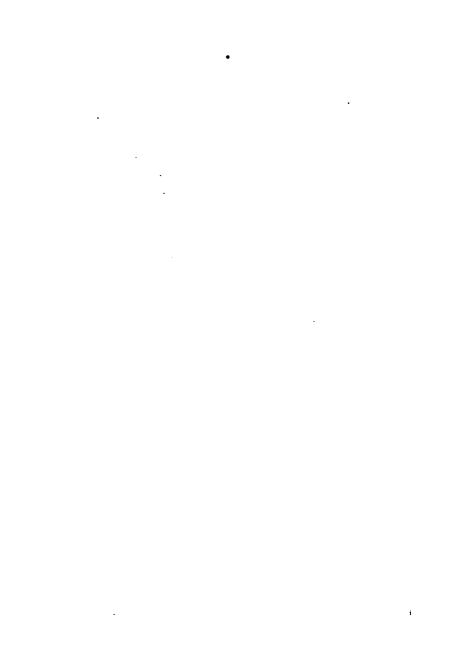


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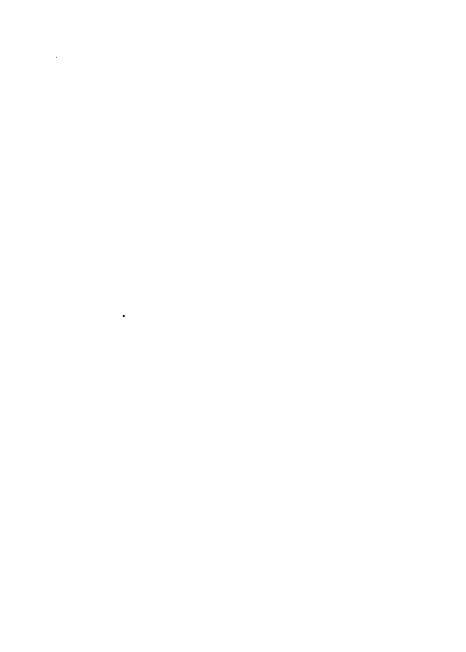






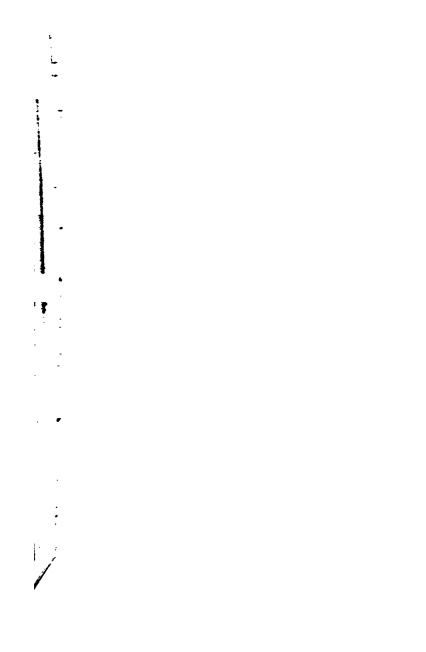






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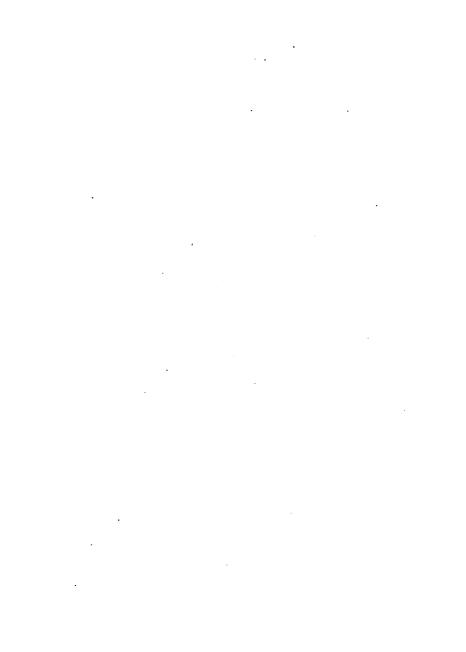
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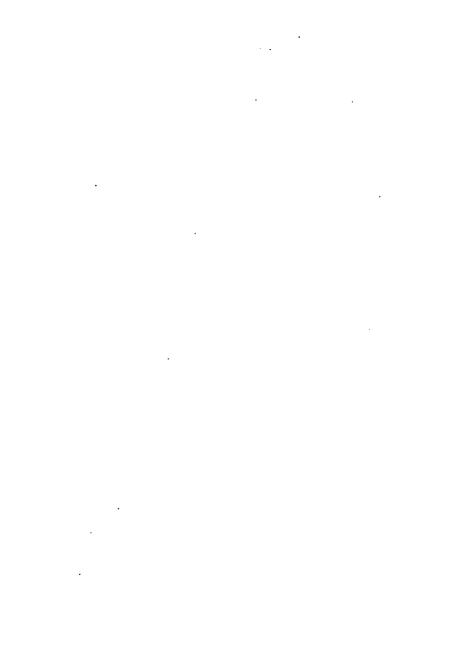


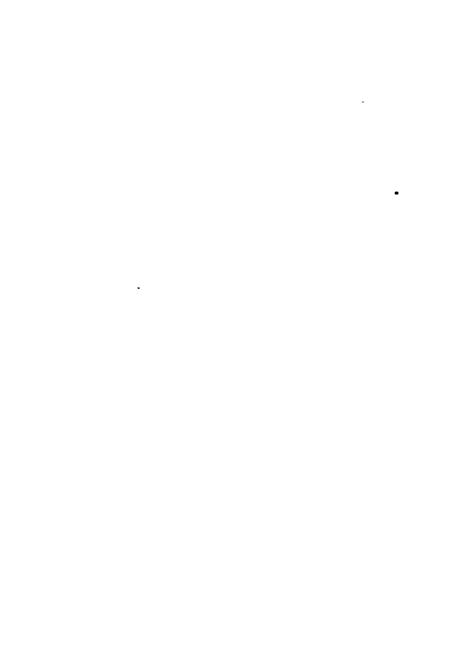


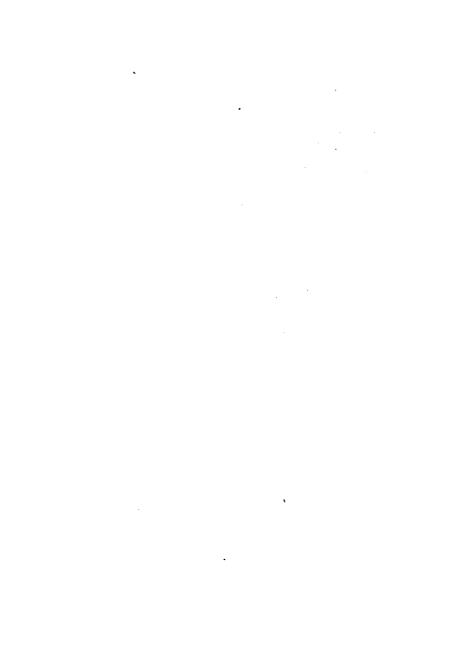
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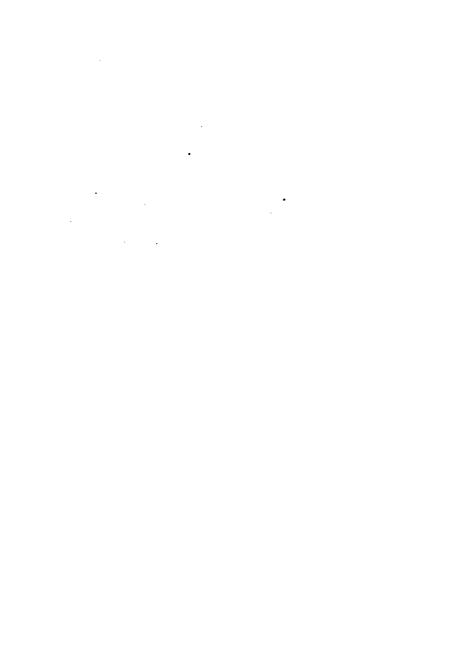


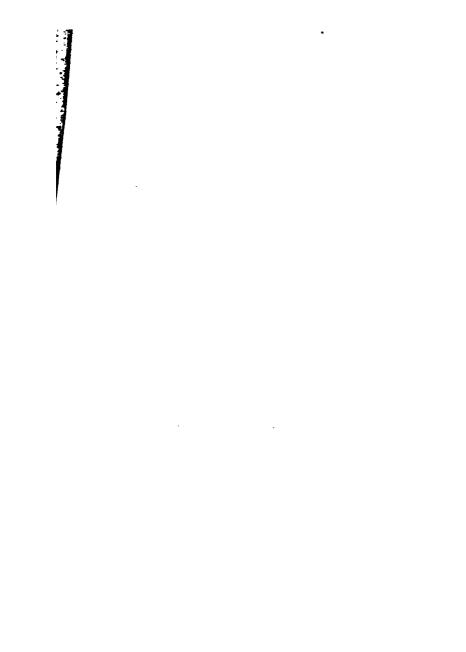




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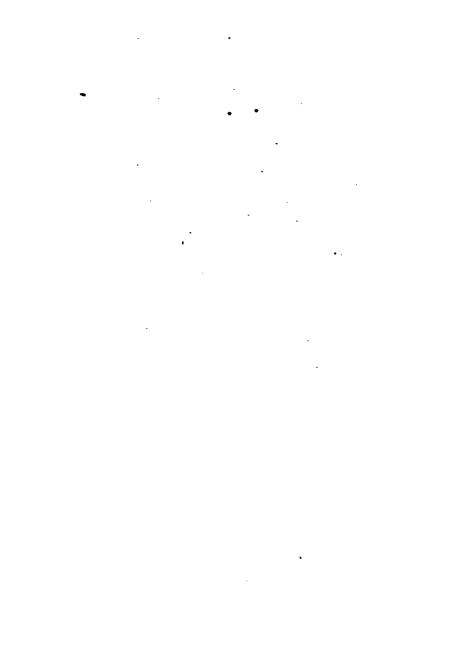
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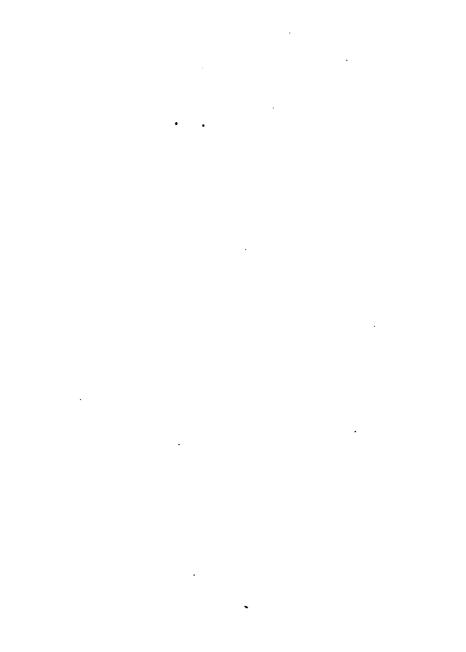
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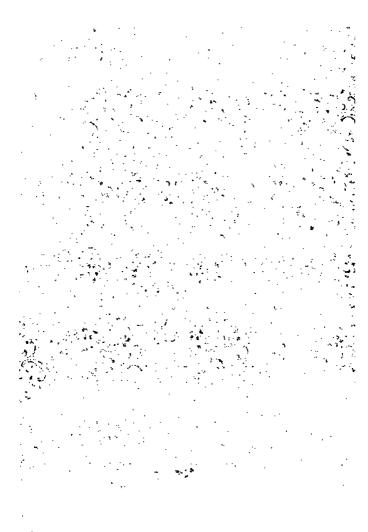












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